

in Assam in containing the violence unleashed by the militants. The Government has taken various steps to protect lives and properties from terrorist outfits in Assam. This include, *inter-alia*, deployment of Para-military Forces and Army in the State, coordinated action by Army, Para-Military Forces and State Police for counter insurgency operations, declaration of major insurgent groups as unlawful associations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967; declaration of the entire State of Assam as "disturbed area" under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958; reimbursement of security related expenditure to the State Government and modernization/up-gradation of State Police Force. Regular review of the situation both at State and Central Government level is being made.

Following effective security arrangements, 74.38% voters were able to cast their vote in the General Assembly Elections held in May, 2001 in Assam.

Illegal stay of Bangladeshis

1845. SHRI ANANTA SETHI
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of the illegal stay of a large number of Bangladesh nationals in the country;
- (b) if so, the estimate number of such Bangladesh citizens in India, State-wise;
- (c) whether the infiltration of such people from across Bangladesh is still going to; and
- (d) if so, the details of steps taken to stop any further illegal entry of Bangladeshis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHIR I. D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There is a continuous influx of illegal migrants from Bangladesh. It is difficult to make a realistic estimate of the number of illegal immigrants from

Bangladesh because they enter surreptitiously and are able to mingle easily with the local population due to ethnic and linguistic similarities.

(d) A series of measures have been taken by the Government to curb the problem of infiltration of Bangladeshi nationals into India. These include raising of additional battalions of Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outposts, intensification of patrolling both on the land and the riverine border, accelerated programme of construction of border roads, and fencing, increase in the number of outpost towers, provision of surveillance equipments etc. The matter has also been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh on various occasions. The progress of these measures is reviewed regularly at various levels. State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have also been directed to enforce the provisions of Foreigners Act, 1946 (IMDT Act, 1983 in case of Assam) strictly.

Security cover for Amarnath Pilgrims

†1846. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government of Jammu and Kashmir had already informed the Centre about its inability to provide proper security cover to the devotees visiting Amarnath Shrine;
- (b) if so, the steps Central Government has so far taken to make arrangement for ensuring that all devotees visit the Shrine to have darshan of Amarnath keeping in view the restriction on the number of visitors; and
- (c) the details of the pilgrims killed so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the security arrangements for the

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.